

Message Text

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EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, KS, US

SUBJECT: THE KIM DONG-JO DIALOGUE

REF; SEOUL 6656, SEOUL 6567

1. WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING CLOSELY HERE THE TENACIOUS AND SKILLFUL EFFORT YOU ARE MAKING TO OBTAIN A BREAKTHROUGH ON KIM DONG-JO'S COOPERATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS. WE ARE ALSO KEEPING JUSTICE AND PETER WHITE APPROPRIATELY INFORMED.

2. YOU TOOK EXACTLY THE RIGHT APPROACH WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE PRIME MINISTER. WE ALL AGREE THAT THE FACTOR WHICH COULD MAKE ALL OUR EFFORT WORTHWHILE WOULD BE SOME SOLID INDICATION THAT KIM DONG-JO WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION HELPFUL TO THE ETHICS COMMITTEES AND JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IN CONCLUDING THEIR INVESTIGATIONS.

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3. IN ADDITION TO THE FORMAL ROKG STATEMENT WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED HE WOULD TRY TO PROVIDE, SUGGEST YOU USE EVERY MEANS AVAILABLE TO URGE THAT WE BE PROVIDED PRIVATELY AND INFORMALLY THE NAME OR NAMES OF CONGRESSMEN (AND/OR SENATORS) ABOUT WHOM KIM WILL PROVIDE USEFUL INFORMATION. THIS WOULD BE A MEANINGFUL INDICATION OF

INTENT TO BE HELPFUL WHICH WOULD LEAD TO PROMPT AND QUIET EXCHANGES OF QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AS DESIRED BY THE ROKG. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT OR WANT ADVANCE WORD ON NAMES TO BE PROVIDED PUBLICLY OR EVEN FORMALLY, BUT IT WOULD PROVIDE THE GOOD FAITH EVIDENCE NOW REQUIRED.

4. ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO PETER WHITE PROVIDED ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR KIM SUK-GYU WITH A LIST OF TWENTY CONGRESSMEN ABOUT WHOM QUESTIONS WOULD BE ASKED IN ANY EXCHANGE WITH KIM DONG-JO. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS ALSO ORAL REFERENCE TO KIM ANSWERING ON POSSIBLE ACTIONS OF FORMER KCIA STATION CHIEF AND DEPUTY HERE. THIS LATTER POINT HAS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THE KOREANS, AND COUNSELOR PARK KUN-WOO HAS POINTED OUT (CORRECTLY, APPARENTLY, IN VIEW OF OTHERREPORTS WE HAVE JUST SEEN FROM ANOTHER AGENCY) THAT KCIA CAN BE HELPFUL TO US ON THIS ISSUE ONLY TO DEGREE IT DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WILL SIMPLY BECOME NEXT TARGET AFTER KIM DONG-JO. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH PETER WHITE, WHO STATES HIS INTENTION WAS TO SUGGEST ONLY A POSSIBLE WAY FOR KIM DONG-JO TO HELP IF HE WOULD NOT SPEAK ABOUT HIS OWN ACTIONS. WHITE AFFIRMS THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION TO EXTEND INQUIRY NEXT TO THE KCIA. YOU CAN STRESS THAT KIM DONG-JO'S ASSISTANCE WILL INDEED END OUR REQUESTS TO THE ROKG ON THIS MATTER.
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5. THE POSITIVE SENATE ACTION THIS WEEK ON MUTUAL SECURITY ISSUES SHOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE ROKG TO WORK WITH US QUIETLY ON THE KIM DONG-JO MATTER WITHOUT THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL LIABILITIES THERE OF APPEARING TO KNUCKLE UNDER TO THE BIG STICK. PARK KUN-WOO REPORTS A CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE IN SEOUL FOR DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE FOLLOWING THIS WEEK'S EVENTS AND YOUR LATEST DISCUSSIONS.

6. LEON JAWORSKI HAS NOT FORMALLY RESIGNED. HE HAS, HOWEVER ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS STEPPING BACK FROM CURRENT ACTIVITY ON THE INVESTIGATION SINCE HE WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN THE ETHICS COMMITTEE'S PROSECUTION OF THE CURRENT CHARGES AGAINST FOUR CONGRESSMEN STEMMING FROM THE TONGSUN PARK TESTIMONY. HE COULD BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN. JAWORSKI EXPECTS TO SEND THE SPEAKER A FORMAL LETTER ABOUT AUGUST 3 IN THIS REGARD. THIS MAY AGAIN CREATE HEADLINES, ALTHOUGH THE STORY ESSENTIALLY HAS ALREADY MADE THE NEWS JULY 28 HERE ON THE BASIS OF JAWORSKI'S ORAL STATEMENT.

7. PETER WHITE WILL LEAVE THE CASE PERMANENTLY AT THE END OF NEXT WEEK, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL

CHALLENGE OUR ABILITY TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE
ETHICS COMMITTEE SINCE CHIEF STAFFER JOHN NIELDS HAS NOT
HERETOFORE BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE DIALOGUE WITH
STATE OR IN TURN WITH OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE KOREAN
GOVERNMENT. WHITE IS LEAVING IN ORDER TO BE ABLE ONCE MORE
TO REPRESENT CLIENTS IN DEALINGS WITH THE USG, SOMETHING
HE CANNOT DO WHILE SERVING IN SPECIAL COUNSEL STATUS.
IT WOULD BE HIGHLY PREFERABLE IF ROKG COULD MOVE WHILE
WE STILL HAVE BENEFIT OF PETER WHITE'S EXPERIENCE.
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